

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IGA-02 IO-13 COME-00 AID-05
EB-08 TRSE-00 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 AGRE-00 /084 W
-----232034 016509 /41

O R 231845Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4240
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
USMISSION USUN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 GEORGETOWN 0390

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINT GY
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER'S REPUBLIC DAY MESSAGE

SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM DID NOT APPEAR LAST NIGHT,
(FEB 22) TO MAKE HIS SCHEDULED REPUBLIC DAY SPEECH, ALTHOUGH AS
LATE AS YESTERDAY, PRESS HAD INDICATED HE WOULD BE PRESENT.
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER REID, SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF BURNHAM,
DELIVERED A MAJOR SPEECH, MOST OF WHICH DEALT WITH INTERNAL
ECONOMIC AND PRODUCTION PROBLEMS AND FORSHADOWED, I BELIEVE,
CHANGES AT HIGH LEVELS IN THE GOG. IT REAFFIRMED GUYANA'S
COMMITMENT TO SOCIALISM, BUT ESCHEWED IDEOLOGY AND JINGOISM.
WHILE AFFIRMING THAT RELATIONS WITH CUBA HAD BEEN DEEPENED AND
STRENGTHENED AND GUYANA HAD DEVELOPED RELATIONS WITH
"SOCIALIST" COUNTRIES, REID FLATLY STATED THAT GUYANA HAD NO INTENTIO
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OF ABANDONING ITS TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIPS WITH NORTH AMERICA OR
WESTERN EUROPE. ALTHOUGH HE MENTIONED THE NEED TO PROTECT
GUYANA FROM CAMPAIGNS OF TERROR, SUBVERSION AND HOSTILE
PROPAGANDA, THE WORD "DESTABILIZATION" WAS NOT USED. OVER
ALL IT WAS A SOBER SPEECH AIMED PRIMARILY AT INTERNAL PROBLEMS
AND SOLUTIONS TO THOSE PROBLEMS. END SUMMARY.

1. FOREIGN POLICY AND NATIONAL SECURITY MATTERS WERE DEALT WITH ONLY BRIEFLY NEAR THE END OF THE SPEECH, AND ARE REPORTED HEREIN IN THE ORDER THEY WERE COVERED. SOME DESCRIPTION OF THE MAJOR DOMESTIC ASPECTS OF THE SPEECH ARE PROVIDED NEAR THE END OF THIS CABLE.

2. OF THE COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN, REID RECOMMITTED GUYANA TO MAINTAINING THE MOMENTUM OF INTEGRATION, ADDING "WE CONSIDER THE UNITY AND INTEGRITY OF CARICOM TO BE ONE OF THE CENTRAL PILLARS OF OUR FOREIGN POLICY."

3. REFERRING SPECIFICALLY TO BRAZIL, VENEZUELA AND SURINAM, HE PLACED "SPECIAL IMPORTANCE TO THE STRENGTHENING AND BROADING OF OUR RELATIONS..." IN LATIN AMERICA, GUYANA WOULD SEEK A "MODEST BUT IMPORTANT ROLE" AIMED AT PROMOTING LATIN AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS.

4. EXPLAINING THAT GUYANA HAD CHOSEN TO DEVELOP A SOCIALIST SOCIETY, THE PATTERN OF ITS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, SAID REID, WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH THAT POLICY. FULL TEXT OF HIS COMMENTS ON CUBA, OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES AND THE US FOLLOW:
"WE HAVE DEEPEENED AND STRENGTHENED OUR LINKS WITH CUBA. FURTHER AFIELD WE MAINTAIN A CLOSE AND FRATERNAL RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA AND HAVE WELCOMED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MISSIONS IN GEORGETOWN FROM THE SOVIET UNION AND YUGOSLAVIA. MORE RECENTLY, WE HAVE BEGUN TO EXPLORE A BASIS FOR A RELATIONSHIP WITH CMEA, THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY ESTABLISHED BY THE STATES OF EASTERN EUROPE.

NONE OF THIS SUGGESTS OR SHOULD BE READ TO MEAN THAT WE WISH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO ABANDON TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIPS, IN PARTICULAR WITH NORTH AMERICA AND WESTERN EUROPE. WE REMAIN FIRMLY COMMITTED TO A POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT, AND WE SHALL CONTINUE TO WORK FOR CLOSER COOPERATION WITH FRIENDS BOTH IN THE EAST AND THE WEST."

5. STATING THAT THE CURRENT WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER WORKS TO THE ADVANTAGE OF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, HE PLEDGED GUYANA TO WORK TOWARD THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. GOG OPPOSITION TO APARTHEID, BANTUSTANS, AND ALL FORMS OF RACISM AND COLONIALISM WAS REAFFIRMED AS WAS THE CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA LIBERATION MOVEMENTS.

6. IN HIS REFERENCE TO NATIONAL SECURITY, THE PM SAID GUYANESE MUST CONTINUE TO RECOGNIZE THE NEED TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM THOSE WHO SEEK TO UNDERMINE THEIR STABILITY AND HALT THEIR PROGRESS THROUGH CAMPAIGNS OF TERROR, SUBVERSION AND HOSTILE PROPAGANDA. THE WORD "DESTABILIZATION" WAS NOT USED.

8. THE EMPHASIS OF THE SPEECH WAS ON GUYANA'S ECONOMIC PRE-

DICAMENT. ALTHOUGH REID INITIALLY ATTRIBUTED THE ECONOMY'S DIFFICULTIES TO FACTORS BEYOND GUYANA'S CONTROL SUCH AS OIL PRICES, WORLD WIDE INFLATION, LOWER PRICES FOR SUGAR AND BAUXITE, UNPRECEDENTED BAD WEATHER, REID CONCENTRATED ON THINGS GUYANESE MUST DO TO SURVIVE THROUGH 1977. THESE THINGS INCLUDED FOREGOING WAGE INCREASES, CUTTING CONSUMPTION OF IMPORTED GOODS, AND PRODUCING EFFICIENTLY. GREATER DISCIPLINE AND HONESTY WERE NEEDED.

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9. HE TALKED OF CORRUPTION IN PUBLIC CORPORATIONS, OF SELFISHNESS, OF THE ARROGANCE OF OFFICIALS AND EVEN SOME UNSPECIFIED PERSONS IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS. HE STATED THAT A PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION WAS ALREADY AT WORK INVESTIGATING, FROM TOP TO BOTTOM, THE ADMINISTRATION AND WORKINGS OF SEVERAL STATE CORPORATIONS, AND PROMISED THAT THE COMMISSION'S FINDING WOULD BE MADE PUBLIC AND APPROPRIATE ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN. OTHER PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSIONS WILL BE CONSTITUTED, HE SAID, TO LOOK INTO OTHER CORPORATIONS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES. HE CALLED UPON GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO USE UNDERSTANDING AND HUMILITY, NOT ARROGANCE AND CONCEIT, AS GUIDELINES FOR THEIR BEHAVIOR.

10. AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION WAS TO BE A TOP PRIORITY. REID
RECOGNIZED THE NEED TO EXPAND GUYANA'S "NARROW AND FRAGILE
ECONOMI BASE" AND DEVELOP MANUFACTURING AND INDUSTRIAL CAPACITY.
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OF THE UPPER MAZARUNI PROJECT HE SAID:

"AT THE VERY HEART OF ALL OF OUR PLANS TO TRANSFORM
GUYANA INTO A MODERN, VIABLE STATE, IS OF COURSE THE GIGANTIC
HYDRO-POWER/SMELTER PROJECT. WE HAVE MADE GREAT SACRIFICES IN
ORDER TO MAKE THIS PROJECT A REALITY. WE HAVE MADE SUBSTANTIAL
PROGRESS TO DATE. WE SHALL NOT RELAX OUR EFFORTS UNTIL
FINAL VICTORY IS WON AND THIS PROJECT IS COMPLETED. WE SHALL
CONFOUND THOSE SCEPTICS WHO SO CONFIDENTLY PREDICT THAT THE
PROJECT IS TOO BIG FOR GUYANA."

11. COMMENT: THE PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH WAS REALISTIC AND
CLEARLY INTENDED TO BE SOBERING. OTHER THAN GIVING A REAFFIRMATION
OF THE COMMITMENT TO BUILD A SOCIALIST SOCIETY, IT AVOIDED
IDEOLOGY AND IT CONTAINED NO JINGOISM. THE CLOSEST
THING TO THE LATTER WAS THE REFERENCE TO THOSE WHO WOULD
USE TERROR ETC AGAINST GUYANA. THE REAFIRMATION OF AN INTENTION
TO KEEP TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIPS, " PARTICULARLY WITH NORTH
AMERICA..." WAS A PUBLIC SIGN OF THE GOG'S INTENTION TO
IMPROVE US-GUYANESE RELATIONS. I CANNOT BELIEVE THAT PUBLIC
OFFICIALS WOULD HAVE BEEN CRITICIZED SO DIRECTLY IF SOME
CABINET CHANGES AND OTHER GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATIONS WERE NOT IN
THE WIND. ALSO, THE RENEWED COMMITMENT TO CARICOM REMOVES ANY
DOUBT ABOUT GUYANA'S OFFICIAL DEDICATION TO REGIONAL
INTEGRATION.
BLACKEN

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